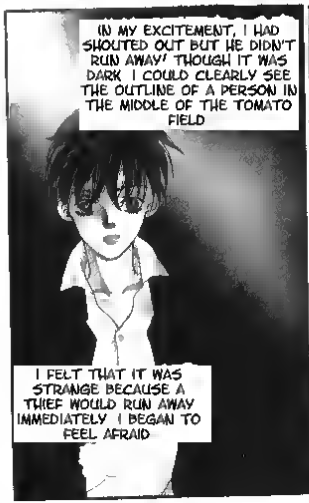
CH 2 MR BURADY'S TOMATO FIELD

500 YEARS AGO, THE YEAR WHEN I TURNED 13, MY FATHER, A SERVANT, USED HIS HARD EARNED SAVINGS TO BUY A PIECE OF LAND. THOUGH THAT PIECE OF LAND WAS NO BETTER THAN A PIECE OF WASTELAND, IT WAS STILL THE FIRST PIECE OF LAND THAT WE OWNED. THERE WASN'T ANYONE IN THE FAMILY WHO WASN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT!

I WORKED HARD TO HELP FATHER PLOW THE LAND AND HE DECIDED TO GROW TOMATOS THERE.
BUT THAT YEAR, THERE WAS A DROUGHT AND MOST OF THE CROPS WERE RUINED.
I WENT ALL THE WAY TO THE RIVER TO BRING BACK WATER BUT TO NO AVAIL.
AND THE NEARER IT GOT TO HARVEST TIME, MORE AND MORE THIEVES CAME.
LOOKING AT FATHER'S FORLORN FACE, I DECIDED TO NAB THE THIEVES.
THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LEGEND THAT A VAMPIRE LIVED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS AND RUMOURS THAT GHOSTS ROAMED AT NIGHT. BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO PROTECT THE CROPS AND WENT AHEAD.

SHUFFLE-
SHUFFLE-

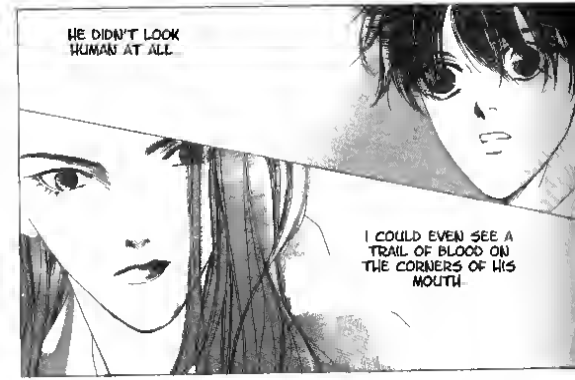
FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THERE WERE NO THIEVES AND THAT NIGHT, I FELL ASLEEP BECAUSE I WAS TOO TIRED


IN MY EXCITEMENT, I HAD SHOUTED OUT BUT HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY! THOUGH IT WAS DARK I COULD CLEARLY SEE THE OUTLINE OF A PERSON IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TOMATO FIELD
I FELT THAT IT WAS STRANGE BECAUSE A THIEF WOULD RUN AWAY IMMEDIATELY I BEGAN TO FEEL AFRAID

WHO'S THAT?!

I STEELED MYSELF AND GRABBED A PITCHFORK, AND WALKED TOWARDS THE FIGURE.
HE SUDDENLY TURNED HIS FACE TOWARDS ME...
AT THAT MOMENT, HE WALKED TOWARD ME, TILL HE WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE SEEN.

멉
멉
멉
멉
NOT ONLY WAS HIS LONG BLACK HAIR SCARRY, THERE WAS ALSO A HUGE BIRD CIRCLING AROUND HIM AND CRYING OUT IN THE MOST HIDEOUS VOICE.
THE FACE THAT WAS ILLUMINATED BY THE MOONLIGHT LOOKED AS PALE AS A GHOST.


HE DIDN'T LOOK HUMAN AT ALL.
I COULD EVEN SEE A TRAIL OF BLOOD ON THE CORNERS OF HIS MOUTH.

I COULDN'T BREATHE AT ALL.
IT WAS AS IF I WAS TAKEN OVER BY DEATH
I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT IT COULDN'T BE TRUE BUT I WAS STILL AFRAID
DO YOU KNOW WHY THIS LAND WAS SO CHEAP? MAYBE IT'S NOT FERTILE BUT YOU'RE WRONG! IT IS FERTILE. IT'S JUST BEEN NEGLECTED THAT'S ALL. AND IT'S REMOTE AND TOO NEAR THAT VAMPIRE'S CASTLE UP THERE. THAT'S JUST A LEGEND BUT MOST PEOPLE ARE STILL UNWILLING TO COME HERE. THANK GOD! IF NOT, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BUY THE LAND AT SUCH A LOW PRICE. IF I SEE THAT VAMPIRE, I MUST THANK HIM!
WITHOUT MAKING A SINGLE SOUND, HE SMILED AT ME COLDLY.

IN THAT MOMENT, HE FLASHED HIS SHARP TEETH AT ME AND I COULDN'T HELP BUT SCREAM...
URRRHHHHHHH!!!
WHAT HAPPENED, GRANDPA?
AND THEN?

SINCE THEN, I'VE NEVER DARED TO GO BACK TO THE TOMATO FIELD.
STRANGE WHY DIDN'T THE VAMPIRE TAKE GRANDPA?
OF COURSE I FAINTED AND WHEN I WOKE UP, THE SUN WAS ALREADY UP AND THE VAMPIRE WAS GONE.
I WENT HOME AND TOLD FATHER ABOUT IT BUT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE ME.
YOU LITTLE RASCAL DON'T TELL ME YOU WISHED THAT GRANDPA WAS TAKEN AWAY?
NO! NO WAY GRANDPA!
I DON'T KNOW TOO. LET'S ASK HIM WHEN WE SEE HIM AGAIN
BUT WHY DID THE VAMPIRE GO TO THE TOMATO FIELD?

MANSION?
EXCUSE ME, ARE THEY GOING TO STOP GROWING TOMATOES HERE?
THE OWNER IS GOING TO BUILD A MANSION HERE.
IT SUDDENLY REMINDED ME OF A MEMORY FROM LONG AGO...
IT HAPPENED WHEN WE WERE HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN OUR DAILY LIVES

THAT YEAR THE WORLD WAS IN RECESSION AND THERE WAS A DROUGHT
SO EVEN IF YOU HAD MONEY, YOU COULDN'T GET FOOD
MASTER DIDN'T EAT FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND WAS CLOSE TO STRAVATION
I FEEL FAINT...
I'M SURE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO BUY TOMATOES AT THAT TIME
I'VE ALREADY SAID THAT I'M NOT A STUPID BIRD!!!
WHAT RUBBISH ARE YOU SPROUTING, YOU STUPID BIRD!
SO, DON'T BE SO PICKY!
這是棺材
THIS IS A COFFIN
THANKS TO THE STROLL, WE CAME ACROSS A TOMATO FIELD
COME WITH ME, STUPID BIRD! I'M GOING FOR A STROLL!

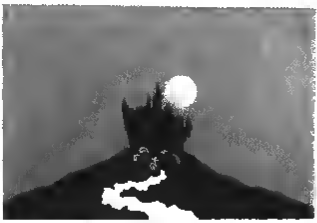
TOMATO FIELD
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? WHY AREN'T YOU MOVING?
ERR MASTER...
MASTER DON'T TELL ME.
DON'T TELL ME.
GASP!
哎

JUST THIS ONCE
JUST THIS ONCE
I COULDN'T BEAR TO STOP HIM
MAS...MASTER! YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S ILLEGAL!
SHUT UP!
THEN, MASTER STARTED TO EAT BLINDLY.
GOBBLE~
SQUISH~
AND I WAS SO SCARED THAT I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE.
WHO'S THAT?!
WHEN HE HEARD SOMEONE CALLING OUT,
SUDDENLY, THERE WAS A LOUD CRY AND MASTER SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN STARTLED AS WELL.

ALL WE COULD THINK ABOUT WAS WHAT WE SHOULD DO AND HOW WE SOULD HANDLE THE SITUATION. THE TENSE MOMENTS TRICKLED BY...
BOTH OUR BRAINS,
SEEMED TO HAVE FROZEN...
THE SOUND OF ANGRY FOOTSTEPS APPROACHED US FROM BEHIND!
FOOTSTEPS-GETTING NEARER-AND-NEARER
脚步緩緩接近
THREE!
ONE
TWO
THEN WE'LL DO IT TOGETHER
OKAY
WHY DON'T WE JUST SMILE? I HEARD THAT HUMANS CAN BE APPEASED BY SMILES
YOU, YOU SMILE FIRST!
NO WAY! YOU DO IT FIRST MASTER!

URGH! WHAT A HORRIFYING FACE!
鬼出現了
THE GHOST APPEARS
BOTH MASTER AND I HAVE NEVER SEEN A SCARRIER FACE. WE SUPPRESSED OUR FEAR AND DID OUR BEST TO SMILE
哈
哈
哈

BUT...
THAT PERSON SUDDENLY SCREAMED OUT IN ANGER!



WE QUICKLY ESCAPED WHILE HE WAS STILL SCREAMING...
GOODNESS WE HAD ONLY STOLEN A FEW TOMATOES SURELY THERE WAS NO NEED TO GET THAT ANGRY?

SEE YOU TOMORROW SHIMPA...
IN THE END MASTER WENT INTO HIBERNATION UNTIL THE NEXT TOMATO HARVEST

THE WORLD REALLY CHANGES QUICKLY NOW YOU CAN GET TOMATOES ALL YEAR ROUND AND MASTER NEED NOT HIBERNATE
AND HE'LL NEVER HAVE TO STEAL TOMATOES LIKE THAT AGAIN AND MASTER HASN'T DARED TO GO NEAR A TOMATO FIELD AFTER THAT I SUDDENLY FEEL A BIT NOSTALGIC WHEN I HEAR THAT THE TOMATO FIELD WILL BE GONE
I'LL JUST TAKE IT THAT I'M TAKING A RARE STROLL WITH MASTER TODAY
IS THAT THE VAMPIRE'S CASTLE?
YES